

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, August 7. 1707.

AN equivalent for *Thoulon* is the present Subject—And I started a very odd one in the last Paper, viz. the Conquest of *Portugal*—Nor do I name *Portugal*, in respect to the High Flying Letter lately sent me, which talk'd in the *French* bluster of the King of *Portugal* running to *Rome* for shelter; I gave no such heed to these sort of People; but when I read in the Publick Accounts, that the Duke of *Orleans* has Detach'd 10 *French* Battalions to join the Duke D' *Orleans* on the Frontiers of *Portugal*, and that 6000 *French* more from the side of *Navarre*, are on their march the same way; I must own, I cannot but see too much probability of Success on that side, and if once they push heartily into *Portugal*, while the *Portuguese* Army is so weak, who can but apprehend the Consequence of such an Enterprize? —

But I shall wave any farther Discourse on this Head; I doubt not but the Government is apprehensive enough of this, and sensible of its Consequences, and in Conjunction with the Allies, will take effectual care to supply the King of *Portugal* with Forces to resist a Power, which without that assistance, must oppress him but too easily.

I come now to another Equivalent to set against *Thoulon*, and which, if the *French* should effect, would go a great way to Balance such a Loss, and which is worse, oblige the Victors to Face about again, and remove the Seat of the War again into *Lombardy*—And this is the Progress of the *French* Arms on the *Rhine*—I own the *Germans* are gathering together on the *Rhine*, and at last tho' late they seem to promise a Force to look the *French* Army in the Face; but we see the *French* have yet such contemptible

ble thoughts of their Reinforcements, tho' by our Accounts they amount to 12000 Men, that they perfectly surround them, Ravage the Richest Provinces of the Empire before their Faces.

If now on this Success, the *French*, who, as I have already observ'd, encrease their Troops, as well as harraßs the Enemies, should when join'd by the Detachment from *Flanders*, make a Detachment of 15000 Men to *Bavaria*, and stand on the Defensive with the rest on the *Rhine*; who shall answer for the Inhabitants of that Country, whose willingness to revolt has but been too evident?—And who, should their own Prince show his Face among them again, might soon make such a Body up 40000 Men; what force the Emperor has there to resist such an Attempt, and what the Consequences of it might in all rational probable Conjecture be, I shall next enquire; in which Enquiry may easily be observ'd, what a Risque the whole Confederacy have run, in the supine negligence of the *Imperial* Affairs, and to what probable Mischiefs the whole Affair has been expos'd; and this is my Principal Design in this Enquiry.

First, I am to enquire whether it be probable, the *French* may spare such a Detachment, and in answer to this, I must observe; that by the best Calculation I can make, the *German* Army, when all the Quota's that are expected are come up, cannot make above 40000 Men to appear in the Field, the Garrisons of *Landau*, *Phillipsburgh*, *Mentz*, and other Cities excepted, which cannot take up less than 20000 Men.

The *French*, by the most moderate Accounts we have yet seen, were 35000 Men, besides the Detachment made from the Garrisons which join'd them since—And we cannot imagine, but with that Detachment, and the Men they have pick'd up in the Countries they have Ravag'd, they have added 10000 Men to that number; out of these it cannot be difficult to join 7000 Men to the *Bavarians*, who are marching from *Flanders*, who we are told will by Detachments from the *Moselle* be 8000 Men; these, together with the Duke of *Bavaria* at the Head of them, with a swift and resolute March, and a Motion of the *French* Army to favour them, may but with too

much ease, and too little Opposition, traverse the Circle of *Swabia*, and enter *Bavaria* at once.

Nor will any Man say, but the appearance of the Duke of *Bavaria*, among his own Subjects at this time, would be as good as 20000 Men, if he have but a supply of Arms and Ammunition, to put them in a Posture of showing their Affection to him, and revenging the Cruelties of their Enemies.

I could descend to a great many Particulars here, and show how unable the *Imperial* Army on the *Rhine* would be to follow them, and how every General must spend time, to have Orders from their respective Principals, to admit their Troops to serve on the *Danube*; how they are destitute of Magazines for such an Undertaking, and how the delays of their concerting those things, would most effectually give the Enterprize of the *French*, abundant leisure to take effect.

I come now to the Consequence, which the *Bavarian* recovering his Country, must have upon the Affairs of the Empire—And in this I shall not talk in Gross, nor make wild Conjectures, but leave all Men to Judge for me.

First, The Emperor as he was before will be Insulted, even in his *Imperial* City, and they that dispute this, may do well to look back to the time, when the Duke of *Bavaria* having taken *Passau*, laid all the Country under Contribution to the Gates of *Lintz*, and almost to the Districts of *Vienna*.

Secondly, By the *Tyrolese*, the *Bavarian* may break into *Italy*, either into the *Milanese* or the *Mantuan*, and unravel all the Conquests of the Duke of the Duke of *Savoy*; in either of which Cases, the *Imperial* Forces would be oblig'd to face about, and quitting their Projects of new Conquests, take care to defend the very Person of their Master the Emperor.

I know these are remote Conjectures, and I have the Satisfaction to see that the Project of *Tboulon* seems so well concerted, so near at Hand, and so heartily push'd, that the *French* may not have time to make any of these Attempts; and really, in my weak Judgment, it is upon the priority of this Expedition, that all the Success

cess of this Affair seems to depend.

'Tis certain, neither the King of Portugal nor the Emperor can defend themselves against but 20000 Men that should attack them in the Condition they are now reduced to, and all their safety depends upon the French not being able to spare 20000 Men to Attack them, which in my Opinion is but a very indifferent Security for any Prince to depend upon.

To such a precarious and uncertain Condition has the Emperor reduc'd himself at the same time, that he is Invading Kingdoms in other Places; and if in this weakness of his Affairs, he is attack'd in the very middle of his Victories, he may fall a Victim for ought we see to a very considerable force; but let him look to that, if he can make this one Attempt upon *Toulon* first, and give *France* this humbling Blow—Let him shift for himself after, I see but few on this side the World would care either to pity or help him.

To what Hazards, to what Exigencies, and Distresses, do the Princes and Great Men of this World run themselves by their Pride, Ambition, and covetous Excesses? To Day Invading Kingdoms, to morrow in Distress to defend their own; to Day Dispossessing lesser Princes, by their extended and Illegal Power, and to morrow in Danger of being Disposess'd themselves by the same Arbitrary and unreasonable Violence.

How might we run a Parallel here, between these too Great and Ambitious Families, the Houses of *Austria* and of *Bourbon*, who have alternately fill'd the Christian World with all sorts of Violence, Civil and Ecclesiastical; what Seas of Blood have they spilt in the Prosecution of their various Designs, and their visible Attempts to finish the Bondage of *Europe*, and reduce the rest of the Sovereigns of Christendom to their Obedience?

It would be too long here, to look back to the House of *Austria* in its Meridian Grandeur; when *Charles V.* went a much greater length, than ever *Lewis XIV.* has done, towards what we call an Universal Monarchy; when he possess'd at once, the Empires of *Germany*, *Mexico* and *Peru*; the Kingdoms of *Spain*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, *Naples*, *Sicily*, and *Sardinia*, the Dutchies of *Milan* and *Burgundy*, all the *Spanish* Netherlands, all the United Provinces—And all those Kingdoms and vast Tracts in *America*, we now call the *Spanish* West-Indies, with the Kingdom of *Tunis*, and all the Coast of *Africa* on the *Mediterranean Sea*—Had at the same time, the King of *England* his Ally and Confederate, the King of *France*, and one of the Electors of the Empire his Prisoners; he had the most Powerful Armies, and the best Soldiers in the World—He fac'd the Great Turk, *Solyman* the Magnificent, with an Army of 60000 Horse and Dragoons, and 120000 Foot all old Disciplin'd Troops, ready and eager to have engag'd the Turks, who had then 400000 Men in his Army, but durst not Fight him.

How have we seen this formidable House reduc'd! on his Death it was reduc'd into two Monarchies, *Philip* of *Spain* the Son to the Emperor, gets all *Spain*, *America*, *Italy*, and the Low Countries; *Rodolph* his Brother gets the Empire, all the Hereditary Countries and the Kingdom of *Hungary*.

In a few Ages from this, how do we find it all torn to pieces, by the private Divisions of the several Countries, and the just Reassumption of their injur'd Neighbours? The *Spanish* Monarchy suffer'd the Defection of the *Dutch*, and by a bloody War of 40 Years continuance, and the Expence of 380 Millions, sets down Impoverish'd, Maim'd, and Dislocated, and has from that time miserably declin'd in Force, and dwindled away into all manner of Deficiencies and Impotence, both in Arms and Politicks, till they are become the Contempt of the World, as it is this Day.

The Emperor of *Germany*, carrying on his Tyranny to the height of Oppression and Persecution, suffers the Eruption of the *Swedes*, under the Great *Gustavus Adolphus*, who, joyn'd with the Oppress'd Protestants, have had their turn in sinking his Usurp'd Authority, and having in two Years and three quarters pierc'd three fourths of the Empire, had the Honour to Establish the Protestant Religion in *Germany*, and restore the Liberties of all the Empire in the famous Treaty of *Munster*.

Ever since these two Blows, the House of *Austria*